

# THE CHRONICLE

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## Quote, Unquote

News Summary: Page A7

"This is an exciting possibility,  
potentially revolutionary in sports."

The San Francisco 49ers' team  
physician, on a device invented  
at Stanford that could give athletes  
superhuman strength: A20

"Unfortunately, state entities need  
not worry about cleaning up  
their act."

A lawyer who has represented  
whistle blowers, on a recent Supreme  
Court decision: A27

"This is a way for many institutions  
to get capital quickly."

An official at the University  
of Missouri at Rolla, on "performance  
contracts": A35

"I don't see what I do  
as a professor as promoting a brand  
name. We are talking about  
brands without the slightest bit  
of self-consciousness, and  
that is just jarring to me."

A professor who teaches labor law  
at Cornell University: A41

"My advice to faculty members is,  
don't censor yourself, but have  
something else in mind in case your  
book is held up."

The president of the American  
University in Cairo: A59

"Our common goal should be  
to encourage and inspire students  
to develop and rely on their  
own moral compass—  
despite enormous pressures  
to the contrary. That is the mark  
of character."

The director of character-education  
programs at the John Templeton  
Foundation: A68

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## Alcohol and Drug Use: a Surge in Arrests

Experts cite tougher enforcement, a change in reporting requirements, and increased substance abuse: A48

Arrests up 11.1% Drug-law violations

Liquor-law violations Arrests up 24.3%

A Small College Hires 5 Black Professors:  
Was It Luck, Determination, or a Change in the Rules? A16

Biologists Put the Power of Healing  
in the Palm of Your Hand: A20

Opinion: Studying a Racially Charged  
Kidnapping Case: B4

## THE FACULTY: PUBLISHING

**DISCIPLINE THIS:** **Jeff Schmidt** says his employers at *Physics Today* disliked his new book, *Disciplined Minds: A Critical Look at Salaried Professionals and the Soul-Battering System That Shapes Their Lives* (**Rowman & Littlefield**), so much that they decided to discipline him. In fact, they fired him.

Mr. Schmidt believes the trouble began after his boss, **Stephen G. Benka**, caught a co-worker reading an item about the book in *Hot Type* ("Steal This Book," May 26). "She was laughing out loud when my boss came along and asked, 'What's so funny?'" says Mr. Schmidt. Apparently, Mr. Benka was not amused by Mr. Schmidt's statement, quoted from the book, that he'd written *Disciplined Minds* partly on time stolen from work.

"He read it right there, but he didn't laugh," says Mr. Schmidt.

The following Wednesday, May 31, Mr. Benka asked him to join the publisher, **Randolph A. Nanna**, for a trip to the human-resources department. There a human-resources professional told him that he was being "terminated with cause" after 19 years at the magazine, during which Mr. Schmidt says he'd consistently received above-average or satisfactory evaluations. Then he was escorted out of the building without being allowed to return to his office.

Neither Mr. Nanna nor Mr. Benka would comment. **Theresa C. Braun**, director of human resources for the nonprofit American Institute of Physics, which publishes the magazine, said only that Mr. Schmidt "was not terminated because of the [*Chronicle*] article, nor because of the general content of the book."

Mr. Schmidt, who earned a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California at Irvine, says they told him that the very existence of the book was evidence that he wasn't "fully engaged" at *Physics Today*.

# Hot Type

In fact, Mr. Schmidt's book argues that it is impossible to be "fully engaged" in a hierarchical institution, an argument that would hardly strike most people as new or shocking. The strength of the book, according to its supporters, lies in its humor and its detailed examination of the particularities of professional life.

"A witty, incisive, original analysis of the politics of professionalism," wrote **Michael Bérubé**, an English professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in a jacket blurb. "Finally, a book that tells it like it is," wrote **Stanley Aronowitz**, a sociologist at the City University of New York.

Or now, for Mr. Schmidt, how it was.



—JEFF SHARLET